AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly cancel claims 6, 14, 22, and 28 and amend claims 1, 7, 9, 15, 17, 23 and 25.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for creating a ~~MixedMessage~~ message on a client node operatively coupled to a host node over a network, said method comprising: choosing, by said client node, a soundscape provided by said host node to said client node, said soundscape comprising a plurality of distinct audio files including at least a front punctuating sound, a background, and a back punctuating sound;recording, by said client node, a message; and mixing, by said client node, said soundscape and said message in a predetermined manner.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said network comprises the Internet.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said act of mixing said soundscape further includes the act of trimming silence from said recorded message.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said act of mixing said soundscape further includes the act of normalizing said recorded message.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said act of mixing said soundscape further includes the act of interleaving said recorded message with said chosen soundscape.

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~6~~ 5, wherein said act of interleaving further includes the acts of:

determining, by said client node, the length of said recorded message;

mixing, by said client node into a separate file, said front punctuating sound at a predetermined level;

mixing by said client node into said separate file, said background at a predetermined level;

mixing, by said client node into said separate file, said recorded message at a predetermined level; and

mixing, by said client node into said separate file, said background punctuating sound after said length of said recorded message at a predetermined level.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said act of mixing said background is characterized by said background being mixed down to a bed volume during said length of said recorded message.

9. (Currently Amended) A apparatus for creating a ~~MixedMessage~~ message, said apparatus being operatively configured as a client node operatively coupled to a host node over a network, said apparatus comprising:

means for a choosing soundscape provided by said host node to said client node, said soundscape comprising a plurality of distinct audio files including at least a front punctuating sound, a background, and a back punctuating sound;

means for recording a message; and

means for mixing said soundscape and said message in a predetermined manner.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said network comprises the Internet.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said means for mixing said soundscape further means for trimming silence from said recorded message.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein means for mixing said soundscape further includes means for normalizing said recorded message.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said means for mixing said soundscape further includes means for interleaving said recorded message with said chosen soundscape.

14. (Cancelled)

15.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~14~~ 13, wherein said means for

interleaving further includes the acts of:

means for determining the length of said recorded message;

means for mixing said front punctuating sound at a predetermined level;

means for mixing said background at a predetermined level;

means for mixing said recorded message at a predetermined level; and

means for mixing said background punctuating sound after said length of said recorded

message at a predetermined level.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said means for mixing said

background is characterized by said background being mixed down to a bed volume

during said length of said recorded message.

17.   (Currently Amended) A apparatus for creating a ~~MixedMessage~~ message, said

apparatus being operatively configured as a host node capable of being operatively

coupled to a client node over a network, said apparatus comprising:

means for providing a soundscape to said client node, said soundscape comprising a

plurality of distinct audio files including at least a front punctuating sound, a

background, and a back punctuating sound;

means for providing said client node with means for recording a message; and

means for providing said client node with means for means for mixing said soundscape

and said message in a predetermined manner.

18.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said network comprises the Internet.

19.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said means for providing said client

node with means for mixing said soundscape further means for trimming silence from

said recorded message.

20.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein means for providing said client node with means for mixing said soundscape further includes means for normalizing said recorded message.

21.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said means for providing said client node with means for mixing said soundscape further includes means for interleaving said recorded message with said chosen soundscape.

22.   (Cancelled)

23.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~14~~ 21, wherein said means for providing said client node with means for interleaving further includes the acts of:

providing said client node with means for means for determining the length of said recorded message;

providing said client node with means for mixing said front punctuating sound at a predetermined level;

providing said client node with means for mixing said background at a predetermined level;

providing said client node with means for mixing said recorded message at a predetermined level; and

providing said client node with means for mixing said background punctuating sound after said length of said recorded message at a predetermined level.

24.   (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein said means for mixing said background is characterized by said background being mixed down to a bed volume during said length of said recorded message.

25.   (Currently Amended) A method for creating a ~~MixedMessage~~ message on a host node operatively coupled to a client node over a network, said method comprising:

providing, by a host node, a choice of soundscapes to chosen by a client node, said

soundscapes comprising a plurality of distinct audio files including at least a front

punctuating sound, a background, and a back punctuating sound;

receiving, by said host node, instructions from said client node regarding the content of

a soundscape as chosen by said client node; and

mixing, by said client host node, a MixedMessage recorded message with a chosen

soundscape according to said instructions.

26.   (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein said network comprises the Internet.

27.   (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein said act of mixing further includes the

act of interleaving said recorded message with said chosen soundscape.

28.   (Cancelled)